

**Summer 2015 Recommended Reading List
Rising Eighth Grade
2015-2016**

Non-Fiction Books

Carson, Mary Kay. *Park Scientists: Gila Monsters, Geysers, and Grizzly Bears in America's Own Backyard*
Describes the work of scientists in America's national parks, as they study geysers, grizzly bears, salamanders, cacti, and fireflies.

Farrell, Mary Cronk. *Pure Grit: How American World War II Nurses Survived Battle and Prison Camp in the Pacific*
Chronicles the experiences of American nurses who served in the Philippines during World War II.

Finkelstein, Norman H. *Schools of Hope: How Julius Rosenwald Helped Change African American Education*
Describes how Julius Rosenwald, president of Sears, Roebuck and Company, helped financially support the building of more than 5,300 Southern schools for African American students in a period of twenty years.

Freedman, Russell. *Because They Marched: The People's Campaign for Voting Rights that Changed America*
Provides an account of the march for African American voting rights led by Dr. Martin Luther King in January 1965.

Leyson, Leon. *They Boy on the Wooden Box: How the Impossible Became Possible—on Schindler's List: A Memoir*
Leon Leyson describes growing up in Poland, being forced from home to ghetto to concentration camps by the Nazis, and being saved by Oskar Schindler.

Markle, Sandra. *The Case of the Vanishing Honeybees: A Scientific Mystery*
Examines why the honeybee population is decreasing and discusses how scientists and beekeepers are working to answer this question.

Morales, Yuyi. *Viva Frida*
Uses rich, vibrant color photographs and minimal evocative text to beautifully portray the unique imagination and creativity of an iconic Latina artist.

Scieszka, Jon, ed. *Guys Read: True Stories*
Presents ten true stories that include essays, biographies, and travelogues.

Stone, Tanya Lee. *Courage Has No Color: The True Story of the Triple Nickles: America's First Black Paratroopers*
The story of America's first black paratroopers during World War II.

Tate, Nikki. *Down to Earth: How Kids Help Feed the World*
Looks at how children farm in developing countries.

Tougias, Mike. *The Finest Hours: The True Story of a Heroic Sea Rescue*
On the night of February 18, 1952, two oil tankers just off the shore of Cape Cod were torn in half by the force of a storm. This book tells the story of a harrowing Coast Guard rescue when four men in a tiny lifeboat overcame insurmountable odds and saved more than 30 stranded sailors.

Walker, Sally M. *Boundaries: How the Mason-Dixon Line Settled a Family Feud & Divided a Nation*
Provides a history of the Mason-Dixon Line, the boundary between Maryland and Pennsylvania surveyed by Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon, discussing the property disputes, family feuds, and exploration associated with it.

Fiction Books

Alexander, William. *Ambassador*

Appointed Earth's ambassador to the universe, twelve-year-old Gabe Fuentes faces two sets of "alien" problems when he discovers his parents are illegal aliens and face deportation, and the Earth is in the path of a destructive alien force causing multiple mass extinctions.

Auxier, Jonathan. *The Night Gardener*

Irish orphans Molly, fourteen, and Kip, ten, travel to England to work as servants in a crumbling manor house where nothing is quite what it seems to be, and soon the siblings are confronted by a mysterious stranger and secrets of the cursed house.

Brahmachari, Sita. *Jasmine Skies*

Fourteen-year-old Mira Levenson travels from London to Kolkata to meet her aunt and her cousin and to find out why the families haven't spoken in years.

Curtis, Christopher Paul. *The Madman of Piney Woods*

Even though it is now 1901, the people of Buxton, Canada, originally a settlement of runaway slaves, and Chatham, Canada, are still haunted by two events of half a century before--the American Civil War and the Irish potato famine--and the lasting damage those events caused to the survivors.

Gibbs, Stuart. *Space Case: A Moon Base Alpha Novel*

Dashiell Gibson, who lives on Moon Base Alpha, has to solve a murder of one of the moon's most prominent doctors.

Jeter, Derek. *The Contract*

In Kalamazoo, Michigan, eight-year-old Derek Jeter, who dreams of playing for the New York Yankees, learns what it takes to be a champion on and off the field.

Larson, M. A. *Pennyroyal Academy*

A girl from the forest enlists at Pennyroyal Academy, where princesses and knights are trained to battle the two great menaces of the day: witches and dragons.

Levine, Kristin. *The Paper Cowboy*

In a small town near Chicago in 1953, twelve-year-old Tommy faces escalating problems at home, among his Catholic school friends, and with the threat of a communist living nearby, but taking over his hospitalized sister's paper route introduces him to neighbors who he comes to rely on for help.

London, Matt. *The 8th Continent: Build It, Run It, Rule It*

Evie and Rick Lane want to build an eighth continent with no rules or regulations.

Lopez, Diana. *Ask My Mood Ring How I Feel*

When thirteen-year-old Erica "Chia" Montenegro finds out her mother has breast cancer, she makes a promise to God to raise money for breast cancer awareness and discovers that when family and friends work together, miracles can happen.

Shusterman, Neal. *Tesla's Attic*

With a plot combining science and the supernatural, four kids are caught up in a dangerous plan concocted by the eccentric inventor Nikola Tesla.

Wiles, Deborah. *Revolution*

It's 1964 in Greenwood, Mississippi, and Sunny's town is being invaded by people from up north who are coming to help people register to vote. Her personal life isn't much better, as a new stepmother, brother, and sister are crowding into her life, giving her little room to breathe.